

LAFAYETTE



PARISH

“ ...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12

LAFAYETTE
PARISH

Lafayette Parish

**Lafayette Parish
Tourist Commission**
P.O. Box 52066
Lafayette, LA 70505
337-232-3808

**Regional Office of
Public Health**
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Regional Administrator
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History¹

Lafayette Parish, one of the smallest in square mile area in the state, was created on January 17, 1823. The earliest settlers to come into this rich agricultural region were Andrew Martin and the Mouton family. Salvator and Anne Mouton were exiled from Nova Scotia. The story is told that Anne and her children, fearing English persecution, fled into the forest and subsisted for 10 days on roots and berries before escaping to a better life, in south central Louisiana.

This is one of the many accounts that reveals the rich heritage of the Acadians.

Culture and Recreation³

Lafayette Parish offers authentic Cajun and Creole cuisine, original Zydeco and Cajun music, scenic swamplands, and many activities and sights characteristic of its cultural uniqueness. Tour swamplands, plantations and folklife attractions like Acadian Village and Vermilionville. For an orientation to the lifeways of the Acadians, visit the Acadian Cultural Center. Experience Lafayette's culture and history at the Alexandre Mouton House, University Art Museum, Lafayette Natural History Museum and Children's Museum of Acadiana. Celebrate year round with Mardi Gras, Festival International de Louisiane, Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival, "Le Cajun" Music Awards Festival, Zydeco Festival, Festivals Acadiens, and "A Cajun Christmas."



Parish Seat¹ Lafayette¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²

Lafayette	
1990	97,658
1997 (estimate)	112,018
Scott	
1990	4,912
1997 (estimate)	6,229
Carencro	
1990	5,429
1997 (estimate)	5,596

Parish Population²

1990	164,762
1997 (estimate)	181,363

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)⁶

White	74%
African American	24%
Other	1%
Male	48%
Female	52%
Population age 0-4	8%
Population age 65 & Over	9%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	41 ft.
Land area in square miles	269.9
Water area in square miles ⁴	0.5

Climate²

Average temperatures

Annual	67°
January	53°
July	81°
Annual average rainfall	82.6 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	88,800
Employed	84,300
Unemployed	4,500
Unemployment	5.1%

Agriculture¹

Rice, soybeans, sugarcane,
beef cattle, vegetable and dairy farming;
oil and related industries, and wholesale
and retail trade.

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)

Louisiana State University, Eunice
McNeese State University, Lake Charles
University of Southwestern Louisiana,
Lafayette

Public Libraries⁵ 8

Educational Attainment (1990)⁷

Less than 5th grade	4.8%
High school graduate or higher	73.3%
Some college or higher	45.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher	22.5%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²**Private Employers**

Lafayette General Medical Center (Medical)	1,900
Petroleum Helicopters, Inc. (Air transportation)	1,838
Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Ctr. (Medical)	1,600

Public Employers

Lafayette Parish School Board (Education)	3,123
University of Southwestern LA (Education)	1,664
City of Lafayette (Government)	1,579

Poverty and Income

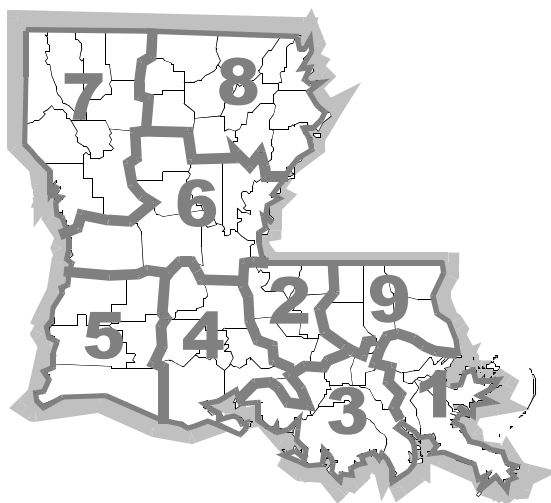
Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	15.8%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	22.7%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$22,078


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References

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- ² Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.state.la.us>
- ³ Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- ⁴ Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- ⁵ State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- ⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- ⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- ⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>

**Louisiana Administrative Regions -
Department of Health and Hospitals**



Region 1

Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

Region 2

Ascension
East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region 3

Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
St. Mary
Terrebonne

Region 4

Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
Vermillion

Region 5

Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jefferson Davis

Region 6

Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
LaSalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn

Region 7

Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
DeSoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Region 8

Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region 9

Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington